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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6978184	:	
Issue Date: December 20, 2005	:	
Application No. 10/629,881	:	DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: July 29, 2003	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)
Attorney Docket No. 0550.001	:	

This is a decision on the petition, filed December 19, 2005, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) to accept an unintentionally delayed notification to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) of the filing of an application in a foreign country or under a multinational treaty that requires publication of applications eighteen-months after filing. *See* 37 CFR 1.137(f).

The petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) is **GRANTED**.

Petitioner states that the instant nonprovisional application is the subject of an application filed in an eighteen-month publication country on July 28, 2004. However, the USPTO was unintentionally not notified of this filing within 45 days subsequent to the filing of the subject application in an eighteen-month publication country. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(iii) and 37 CFR 1.213(c), petitioner failed to timely notify the USPTO of the filing of a counterpart application in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) to accept an unintentionally delayed notification to the USPTO of the filing of a counterpart application in an eighteen-month publication country must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply which is met by the notification of such filing in a foreign country or under a multinational treaty;
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date of the reply until the filing of a grantable petition was unintentional.

The instant petition has been found to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.137(b). Accordingly, the failure to timely notify the USPTO of a foreign or international filing within 45 days as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(iii) is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

This application matured into Patent No. 6978184 on December 20, 2005 . Therefore, no further action being required, this patented file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3215 .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlema R. Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charlema R. Grant
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions